

told we can't afford to prevent foreclosures or to improve child nutrition. Now we are being asked to borrow another \$33 billion for nation-building in Afghanistan.

We don't have the money to help American working families, but when it comes to supporting a corrupt and incompetent Karzai government, we are supposed to be a bottomless pit.

Not so fast, Madam Speaker.

Last week a bipartisan group of us sent a letter to the Speaker, urging that the House not consider the supplemental before some serious questions about our policy in Afghanistan are addressed. Even if we move forward this week, I hope that we are given an opportunity to have a thorough debate on this issue and to get a clean vote on whether or not we should continue our funding at current levels. This is life and death. This is about sending our troops into harm's way. This is about whether or not we can afford to continue this policy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to think long and hard this week about this critical issue.

U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST MATTHEW CATLETT FROM TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we honor a fallen American warrior today—a Texas soldier who gave his life serving this country, this country he loved.

U.S. Army Specialist Matthew Catlett was an infantryman with the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky—one of the most prestigious and decorated divisions in the entire United States Army.

The Screaming Eagle warriors landed in Normandy on D-day, and fought the Battle of the Bulge—the crucial turning points of World War II. The Screaming Eagles fought in the rice paddies of Vietnam. They've stood vigil in the deserts and towns of Iraq, and they're leading in Afghanistan the fight against the cowards in the desert—the Taliban.

I have been to Iraq and Afghanistan. Let me tell you something, Madam Speaker, that there is no better fighting machine in the world than the 101st. They were the first conventional unit to deploy in support of the American war on terrorism.

The 101st's "Easy Company" was portrayed in the series "Band of Brothers," and like those in the 101st who have so nobly held that line in their storied history, Matthew gave his life with four other fellow soldiers that day. It was the bloodiest day of the war so far this year.

Madam Speaker, this is a photograph of Matthew Catlett. He and his fellow soldiers were killed when their Humvee was hit by an improvised explosive device. That is called an IED. That is the

cowards' way, the Taliban's way, of fighting our troops.

Though, as Shakespeare said, "They shall be remembered—we few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother."

□ 1650

Matthew Catlett, this young American hero, was only 23 years of age when he gave his life for this country. There is nothing as noble as the character of a man who so willingly dedicates his life for others. The American warriors serving our military understand that better than anybody. They embody what is meant to be an American, and Matthew Catlett was such a man.

He gave his life on June 7 on a battlefield in Afghanistan, fighting the terrorists who attacked America on September the 11th from that desolate, faraway land.

Matthew grew up in Cypress, Texas. He joined the United States Army right out of Cyprus Ridge High School, always knowing he wanted to be a military man, a soldier in the United States Army. He served a tour of duty in Iraq 3 years ago and had just been redeployed to Afghanistan in April of this year.

Our American warriors make great sacrifices in the heat and the dust and the deserts and the rough, rugged mountains of Afghanistan, where summer temperatures reach almost 120 degrees in the parched desert landscape. Our soldiers track down terrorists under the worst possible conditions, but no matter what hole these cowards try to hide in, our soldiers are able to hunt them down and to keep America safe.

We grieve the loss of this American warrior, but we celebrate and honor his life and his service. We are fortunate that a man like Matthew ever lived. Matthew stood for the best of those American ideals and values exemplified in our fighting infantrymen.

General Robert E. Lee once said, "Duty, then, is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more; you should never wish to do less."

Matthew Catlett did his duty. He served this Nation as the fine soldier he always wanted to be. All of his fellow soldiers gave some, but Matthew Catlett gave all in defense of this Nation. He fought for liberty for a people he did not know in a land that he had never been. He was the American breed. He was a rare breed. So we honor our American warrior, and we honor the families left behind who grieve the loss of their loved one.

Specialist Matthew Catlett was buried with full military honors in Houston's Veterans Memorial Cemetery. His draped coffin was surrounded by flags carried by the old war horses of the Patriot Guard. Those are motorcycle riders, mainly Vietnam veterans, that surround fallen soldiers and their families during a time of grief.

So today I extend my prayers and condolences to Matthew's wife, Bryntee; his two young daughters, Ryann and Stephanie; his parents; his relatives; and his friends. Their American warrior is home, his duty is done, and he is at peace.

George Orwell said, "We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm."

Our grateful Nation will always remember that Specialist Matthew Catlett stood always ready to do his duty for us.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO MANUTE BOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. PERRIELLO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, this morning I rose to honor the passing of Ruby Archie, a great hero to all of those in southern Virginia; an educator, a civic leader, and a tireless advocate for fairness. Tonight, I rise for the passing of another individual, Manute Bol, who was laid to rest at the National Cathedral earlier today.

Many know Mr. Bol as the tallest player ever to have played in the NBA. But to those of us who followed issues in Sudan and in Africa, he is a giant for other reasons. He is a giant for his humanitarian work. He is a giant for having stood up for justice and fairness, particularly in Africa's longest-running civil war against the southern Sudanese, where so many Christians and traditionalists have been suffering for so many years.

Too many in our country fight to become famous as an end in itself. Here was an individual of such tremendous character that he used fame as a means to help those less fortunate.

After growing up in Sudan and having a chance to remove himself to the United States, where he could have lived a comfortable life of riches, he chose instead to give everything he had, his money, his time, and his energy, to protect those suffering back in his homeland.

Manute Bol became a hero, not just on the basketball court, but he became a hero to many evangelical Christians, to people of all faiths, to lost boys back in Sudan, and to people all over the world for being a shining example of someone who chose to always stand for justice, a word engraved in the dais behind me, and understanding that as feared as he was as a shot-blocker, he was even more fearless in his own life in standing up. And not just doing the

easy work of writing a check, but always being willing to go back and spend time on the ground, often at great personal risk to his security and to his health, and was even willing to speak out against regimes that were not only enemies of the people of that country, but often of our own.

He was a hero to many of us who looked at the fact that many will look back through history and say, how did we allow 30,000 of God's children to die every day of hunger and preventable disease? Here was a man who not only made this town of Washington proud when he was with the then-Bullets, but all over the country inspired many to say, what can I give, what can I sacrifice, for those who are suffering or not having the blessings that we have?

And he did it all with a tremendous sense of humor. Mr. Bol spent his last few days in my district in Charlottesville, Virginia, at the University of Virginia, and we were honored to have him and so many of his loved ones in for the unfortunate and far too early passing of this great hero.

I hope today people will take a moment not only to say a prayer for him and his family and for all of those in Sudan who continue to suffer, but will take some inspiration from his legacy, of someone who came from very rough circumstances, got to the top of the world, and did nothing but look back to how he could help those less fortunate. He is an inspiration to all of those. He is a giant of a humanitarian. He has been a warrior for justice and fairness, and we honor him today.

AN NCO RECOGNIZES A FLAWED AFGHANISTAN STRATEGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I want to share with the House words from George Will. It was a syndicated column that he wrote on the 20th of June of this year. The title is "An NCO recognizes a flawed Afghanistan strategy."

In receipt of a recent email from a noncommissioned officer serving in Afghanistan, he explains why the rules of engagement for U.S. troops are too prohibitive for coalition forces to achieve sustained tactical success.

Receiving mortar fire during an overnight mission, his unit called for a 155 millimeter howitzer illumination round to be fired to reveal the enemy's location. The request was rejected, and I quote, Madam Speaker, "on the grounds that it may cause collateral damage." The NCO says that the only thing that comes down from an illumination round is a cannister, and the likelihood of it hitting someone or something was akin to that of being struck by lightning.

I further read from this article: "Returning from a mission, his unit took casualties from an improvised explo-

sive device that the unit knew had been placed no more than an hour earlier."

I quote again: "There were villagers laughing at the U.S. casualties" and "two suspicious individuals were seen fleeing the scene and entering a home." U.S. forces are no longer allowed to search homes without Afghan National Security Forces personnel present. But when his unit asked the Afghan police to search the house, the police refused on grounds that the people in the house "are good people."

Madam Speaker, Afghanistan is a chaotic situation. As my friend Mr. MCGOVERN said, they have a corrupt government. There is not anything we can do to take a country that has never been a nation to make it a nation.

Madam Speaker, I, along with Congressman JEFF MILLER and Congressman DOUG LAMBORN, have asked the chairman and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee to hold classified hearings on what is called rules of engagement.

□ 1700

I wish I could read this entire article, but I can't because of time. But I want to read the close of George Will's column. And George Will is a conservative. "President Obama has counted on his 2011 run-up to re-election being smoothed by three developments in 2010—the health care legislation becoming popular after enactment, job creation accelerating briskly, and Afghanistan conditions improving significantly."

I further read: "The first two are not happening. He can decisively influence only the third, and only by adhering to his timetable for disentangling U.S. forces from this misadventure."

Madam Speaker, I am on the letter that Mr. MCGOVERN made reference to a while ago. I have Camp Lejeune Marine Base in my district and Cherry Point Marine Air Station. And we're wearing out our military. Madam Speaker, I hope the President will keep his word and have a timetable to get our troops out of Afghanistan.

With that, Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please in his arms hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. Madam Speaker, I ask God to bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God. And I ask God to give wisdom, strength, and courage to President Obama that he will do what is right in the eyes of God. And three times I will say please God, please God, please God, continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WEINER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS FOR AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. I rise today because when it comes to Afghanistan, we are asking the wrong questions. And with the wrong questions come the wrong answers. Back in December, we asked, Should we send more troops to Afghanistan? We should have been asking, Will a greater military presence make America safer? Then we asked, How can we get millions of pounds of supplies to our troops scattered in remote areas of Afghanistan? We should have been asking, Could getting those supplies to the troops be fueling the very insurgency we are fighting, and is having thousands of U.S. troops stationed throughout Afghanistan making America safer? And now we are asking, Can a new commander in Afghanistan ensure we win the war there? We should have been asking, Is this war winnable, and will it make America safer?

We have to start asking the right questions. The first of these questions is, Where are the terrorists? We have put our blinders on and are so focused on the details of Afghanistan that we are missing the larger picture. The terrorists that we are fighting are no longer only in Afghanistan. They are operating in the ungoverned spaces of Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and even right here in the United States.

The Christmas Day bomber was from Nigeria. The Times Square bomber was Pakistani American. An increasing number of terror attacks are being plotted right here on American soil. Major Nidal Hasan, who killed 13 people at Fort Hood, Texas, was born in Virginia. An increasing number of extremists from around the world are being connected and motivated by "the virtual Afghanistan" through the Internet.

We are fighting an enemy without borders, and so we must have a strategy without borders. In a world of limited resources, the next question we need to ask is this: How can we best spend our precious tax dollars to make Americans safest? Unfortunately, right now we are allocating most of our resources to Afghanistan, where at most, only 50 to 100 al Qaeda are operating, according to CIA Director Leon Panetta. And every day we read a new report that the billions we are investing are simply flowing to drug lords, corrupt local officials, and even the Taliban.

According to a recent eye-opening report by Subcommittee Chairman Tierney, we learned that the U.S. military is funding a multibillion-dollar protection racket. A good portion of a